

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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/114 W

-----124582 250714Z /14

R 242118Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7165
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SOUTH LEBANON AND REJECTION-
- ISTS

SUMMARY: LEBANON TAKES SECOND PLACE TO BEGIN VISIT IN
MARCH 24 PRESS, BUT FONMIN KAMEL'S APPEAL TO EC-9
TO SECURE IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH
LEBANON REPORTED AS IS ARRIVAL OF UNIFIL AT LITANI
RIVER. EDITORIALS CONTINUE CRITICIZE REJECTIONISTS
FOR DOING NOTHING WHILE ISRAELIS MOPPED UP PALESTINIANS.
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SOVIET UNION CRITICIZED FOR PERSUADING ASSAD TO BE
PASSIVE. REPORTS THAT IRAQI AND LIBYAN VOLUNTEERS
JOINING FIGHT A WEEK LATE RIDICULED. IN CURIOUS COUNTER-
POINT TO CRITICISM OF REJECTIONISTS, AKHBAR SAYS EGYPT
WILL OPEN CONSULATE IN BASRA AND IRAQ ONE IN ALEXANDRIA.
CONFUSION EXISTS OVER MIN STATE GHALY STATEMENT ON
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. END SUMMARY.

1. SOUTH LEBANON. PRESS REPORTS MARCH 24 SAY FONMIN KAMEL ASKED EC-9 THROUGH DANISH AMBASSADOR TO EXERT EFFORTS TO GAIN IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON. PRESS REPORTS INTERNATIONAL FORCES NOW DEPLOYING ALONG LITANI RIVER AND AHRAM PUBLISHED PICTURE OF FRENCH CONTINGENT ON FRONT PAGE.

2. REJECTIONISTS. EDITORIALS CONTINUE CRITICISM OF REJECTIONISTS. AHRAM NOTES MOSCOW RADIO REPORT THAT IRAQI VOLUNTEERS WILLING JOIN FIGHTING AGAINST ISRAELIS AND LIBYAN RADIO REPORTS THAT 200 VOLUNTEERS HAVE LEFT LIBYA TO FIGHT IN SOUTH. EDITORIAL CLAIMED BROADCASTS "HIGH-FLOWN STATEMENTS" BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHEN VOLUNTEERS REACHED LEBANON OR WHY LIBYA AND IRAQ HELD BACK FROM FIGHTING IN SOUTH AND AIDING PALESTINIANS WITH ARMS. AKHBAR EDITORIAL HAS SAME THEME, RIDICULING LENGTHY DELIBERATIONS OF REJECTIONISTS WHICH PRODUCED NO PRACTICAL MEASURES. EDITORIAL TARS SYRIA BY CITING GENERAL GUR'S PRAISE OF SYRIAN RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR. SOVIET UNION CRITICIZED FOR INTERVENING TO PREVENT SYRIA FROM AIDING PALESTINIANS. GUMHURIYYA CRITICIZES LIBYA FOR "FANNING EMBERS OF WAR" AND GIVING ISRAELIS PRETEXT FOR MORE KILLING IN THE SOUTH. AHRAM EDITOR ALI HAMDI GAMMAL COMMENTARY ALSO SCORES REJECTIONISTS FOR INACTION.

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3. EGYPTIAN/IRAQI CONSULATES. AKHBAR REPORTED IRAQI APPROVAL OF EGYPTIAN CONSULATE IN BASRA AND IN RETURN IRAQIS WILL OPEN CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA. AKHBAR HAD POINTED INQUIRY: WHY SHOULD EGYPT APPROVE OPENING IRAQI CONSULATE AT TIME WHEN BAGHDAD RADIO IS LAUNCHING "DAILY INSOLENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPTIAN PEOPLE?"

4. GAHLY STATEMENT. ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE CARRIES MIN STATE GHALY'S STATEMENT IN SRI LANKA THAT NEGOTIATIONS OF ANY KIND BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WILL NOT RESUME UNTIL ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM LEBANON. HOWEVER, AKHBAR REPORT HAS GHALY SAYING DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL WILL NOT RESUME UNTIL ISRAEL AGREED WITHDRAW FROM "ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES." (COMMENT: LATTER STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY ERRONEOUS REPORT SINCE IT WOULD REPRESENT MAJOR POLICY CHANGE.) EILTS

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